

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : De Vuyst et al.  
App. No : 10/516,580  
Filed : January 24, 2005  
For : STREPTOCOCCUS THERMOPHILUS  
STRAINS PRODUCING STABLE  
HIGH-MOLECULAR-MASS  
EXOPOLYSACCHARIDES  
Examiner : Fernandez, Susan Emily  
Art Unit : 1651  
Conf # : 9933

**AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE**

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 30, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.